

**Remarks/Arguments**

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1 -18 are pending in the application.

Rejection of claims 1-18 under 35 USC 103(a) as being Unpatentable over Hoopengardner (US 4,990,399) in view of Kohlhammer et al. (US 6,559,259) and further in view of JP 07195637 A.

It has been argued that Hoopengardner teaches a carpet cushion comprising a compressible foam layer coated with a layer of pressure sensitive adhesive, but does not teach a specific adhesive composition. Kohlhammer et al. was cited as teaching an adhesive which can be used for textiles, nonwovens and production of compression molding compounds. Kohlhammer et al. was also described as teaching polymer compositions exhibiting high mechanical strength and high resistance to water and solvents (col. 2, lines 15-25). It was concluded that, motivated by the desire to provide a carpet with an adhesive having high mechanical strength and high resistance to water and solvents, it would have been obvious to coat the carpet taught by Hoopengardner with the adhesive taught by Kohlhammer et al. The abstract of JP 07195637 was cited as disclosing a resin composition comprising ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer having crystalline ethylene and disclosing that the resin composition exhibits high heat sealing and gas barrier properties. It was argued that it would have been obvious to formulate the adhesive composition taught by Kohlhammer et al. with the resin composition of the JP reference

Response to Rejection under 35 USC 103(a)

A machine translation of JP 07195637 was obtained in order to more clearly understand the content of the patent application publication (copy enclosed). Paragraphs 0007 and 0008 of the detailed description of JP 07195637 indicate that the crystalline ethylene is part of copolymers containing ethylene and C3-C20 alpha olefins, such as propylene, 1-butene, 1-hexene, and 1-octene. JP 07195637 does not disclose or suggest ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers containing crystalline ethylene. Therefore formulating the adhesive composition taught by Kohlhammer et al. with the resin composition of JP 07195637 would not provide an adhesive composition containing crystalline ethylene-vinyl acetate polymers.

Since Hoopengardner does not teach a specific adhesive composition, the polymer compositions of Kohlhammer et al. do not show crystallinity, and the polymers containing crystalline ethylene segments, disclosed in JP 07195637, are ethylene-alpha-olefin copolymers, combining the teachings of the three references would not have put the claimed invention in the hands of a skilled artisan.

It is therefore submitted that a prima facie obviousness rejection is not valid based on Hoopengardner in view of Kohlhammer et al. and further in view of JP 07195637 A.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 103(a) is requested.

Based on the above arguments, reconsideration of this application and its early allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary E. Bongiorno".

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Enclosure: Machine translation of JP 07-195637 A